

*BEST COPY  
AVAILABLE  
ON ALL PAGES*

~~SECRET~~

24 August 1959

**1938-39 Congressional Query Regarding Issuance of Passports  
to U. S. Communists**

1. I have been asked to comment upon the following question:

"If American Communists can travel without passports to Canada or Mexico and there obtain documentation for further travel, is what use is it to deny them U. S. passports in the first place?"

Digitized by srujanika@gmail.com

1990-1991  
1991-1992  
1992-1993  
1993-1994  
1994-1995  
1995-1996  
1996-1997  
1997-1998  
1998-1999  
1999-2000  
2000-2001  
2001-2002  
2002-2003  
2003-2004  
2004-2005  
2005-2006  
2006-2007  
2007-2008  
2008-2009  
2009-2010  
2010-2011  
2011-2012  
2012-2013  
2013-2014  
2014-2015  
2015-2016  
2016-2017  
2017-2018  
2018-2019  
2019-2020  
2020-2021  
2021-2022  
2022-2023  
2023-2024

...and the use of these antibodies are often used to identify the H antigen.

• The Soviet entry in the lottery, whether it will be won or not.

THE UNITED STATES. — See [UNITED STATES](#).

is a member of the Government Intelligence Service. It is

~~THESE BY CROSS SERVICES WILL NOT BE~~

In addition to the species special cited,

and services also have the facility to manufacture false passports.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

1. We have two examples in the Abel and Mink cases of the use of U. S. passports by Soviet agents. In the Abel case, Mayman's passport was issued in the mistaken belief that he was a U. S. citizen -- which belief was based on a birth certificate illegally obtained by Soviet intelligence. Abel had a U. S. passport which he claims he purchased and subsequently substituted his autograph for that of Andrew Kayotis. In addition, both had a total of four birth certificates which would presumably be used to get additional passports if needed.

2. Mink, when arrested in 1954, had in his possession three passports in addition to his own. These passports had been issued to other citizens who did not use them. The vague explanation as to how they got into Mink's possession leaves much to be desired.

3. The question of denying a passport to American Communists does not turn on whether by such a device we can thereby prevent or restrict all U. S. Communist travel. Nevertheless it is our belief that the denial of U. S. passports to Communists would serve the national interests of the United States. There are a number of practical examples to illustrate this point:

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

--Alfred and Martha Stern were in Mexico without valid U. S. passports. As a result, when the Sterns fled to refuge behind the Iron Curtain, they were forced to resort to an illegal and heretofore unknown Russian Intelligence Service channel to obtain Paraguayan passports. This development surfaced the illegal channel to our observation and investigation.

--Maurice Halperin, an American Communist in Mexico, was intimately associated with the Sterns. It became apparent to Halperin that he would probably be forced out of Mexico and that he lacked the ability to leave the country because he was unable to secure a U. S. passport under the restrictions then in effect. When State Department passport restrictions were removed, Halperin applied for and received a U. S. passport. He then used it to flee to Russia, where he is now residing. There is no doubt that the Soviets would have been forced to expose another channel in order to extract Halperin from his predicament if the needed document had not been provided him by the U. S. Government.

. In the Stern case tractability created by the withholding of valid documentation forced the Soviets to reveal covert assets. In the Halperin case the United States provided him with the mobility that he so clearly needed.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

6. Recent examples of U. S. Communists who probably would not have travelled on false documents are Paul Robeson and his wife, Eslanda. Attending the Accra Conference held in December 1956, Eslanda Robeson was very active in attempting to further Communist aims. By her own statement, made in a secret report to a Party member, she bragged that she was the person principally responsible for the removal of the Nationalist Chinese flag from the Accra Conference assembly hall. This action was responsive to a declaration of the Chinese Communist delegation that they would not enter the hall if the flag remained. In addition, she was very active throughout the Conference in attempting to further the Party line. Thereafter she went to Moscow with her husband, and, while there, wrote about the Accra Conference in a series of Party line articles which were published in the United States.

7. The wife of Dr. W. E. B. Dubois (who uses the name of Shirley Graham) was also present at the Conference and read her husband's speech, which was anti-U. S. and pro-Soviet. She and her husband subsequently travelled to the Soviet Union and Communist China.

8. The recent travels of Harry Bridges are another example of the facilitation which a U. S. passport provides Communists and

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

which they systematically allow to the disadvantage of our own security authorities.

9. Harry Boston Bridges, President of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), received a U. S. passport late in 1958. Using this passport during January and February of this year, Bridges was able to meet with important Communist leaders in Paris, Le Havre, Rome, Cairo, Prague, Moscow, and Berlin. [In addition, Bridges also visited in their respective countries Germany, Belgium, France, Greece, and Denmark with labor leaders whom organizations are affiliated with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.]

10. In May, using his U. S. passport, Bridges was able to attend the Pacific and Asian Regional Dockworkers Conference in Tokyo. As the key international figure, he organized and directed this conference, which was attended by Communist delegates from Australia, Indonesia, Japan, China, the USSR, and the United States.

11. Bridges' travel during 1959 has resulted in the most important series of international contacts made by a Communist labor leader in the Free World in recent years. From what we know of these meetings it appears that Bridges had two major objectives. The first and most

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

important was to attempt to arrange for working agreements among dockworkers' unions in various countries for mutual support in strike actions.

12. Equally important is the fact that the passport afforded Bridges the opportunity to exploit the status and courtesies which U. S. citizens enjoy abroad. During the course of his travels Bridges also sought to meet with local representatives of the U. S. Department of State wherever possible and subsequently to exploit such meetings in order to convey the impression to local labor leaders that the U. S. Government approved of his objectives. While abroad, Bridges also tried to convey and exploit the impression that he was in fact a bona-fide representative of the American trade union movement. His statements to the press while in Rome, Prague, and Moscow all professed that the American worker had been misinformed by the U. S. Government and U. S. newspapers.

13. A vast amount of effort by our Service and the services of friendly governments is required to cover travel such as Bridges'. And it is magnified by the travel of numerous other American communists who have been going abroad for the past several months. You can see the amount of added work that is entailed.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SUMMARY

14. Denying passports to U. S. Communists means that the Department of State is not forced to become an unwilling abettor to the international Communist movement. The fact that the United States cannot always prohibit travel by certain Communists or suspected KGB agents for purposes contrary to our security interests, does not mean that we should facilitate such travel for all. Failure to distinguish in this respect between loyal citizens and persons dedicated to our destruction as a nation would create a precedent for the moral blurring of other issues as well.

15. The fact that the denial of a passport may be countered from the Soviet side by the occasional provision of a substitute document provides U. S. intelligence at home and abroad with further opportunities to investigate undercover clandestine assets which are aimed at the United States. Decreasing the mobility of agents through passport restrictions increases the difficulties of their communication and as a consequence opens them to more effective scrutiny and counteraction.

16. Legal travel by members of the Communist Party on passports issued by their own countries makes it practically

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

impossible to take action against them abroad unless they violate local laws. If they are forced to use illegal documentation, they are vulnerable to arrest, questioning, and searches instant to the arrest. On a number of occasions, we have learned of travel by illegal documentation and have alerted the internal security services of friendly countries. They have taken action, on the basis of this violation of their laws, which has resulted in considerable hindrance to freedom of Communist movement. This has resulted in considerable information as a result of interrogation, and has yielded documents of value. This is particularly true of Party members who have gone to Moscow for training and are returning with documentation, notes, and instructions. ~~Inform~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ the moment any instance of such action having been taken~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ We have, however, taken such~~  
action in a number of Latin American cases. For example, a member of the illegal apparatus living illegally in a Latin American country made a trip to Moscow with false papers. A series of actions based on local authorities on information furnished by us, has not only interfered with his Party activities but has actually prevented him from returning to the country where he was operating illegally.

- 8 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

17. The Communist Party and the Soviet Satellite intelligence services presumably have passports of U. S. and other countries at their disposal. In the past such passports have been obtained by directing Communist Party members to apply for documents they did not intend to use, by false applications in the names of other persons, and by theft or purchase. These passports, of course, are not used if legal documentation is available. The supply of documents obtained in this manner to Moscow, and thus can be made available only to intelligence agents and certain Party members. The Party members must not be so well known as to preclude the use of such false documentation and their travel must be considered vital.

18. Americans travelling abroad, and particularly those visiting neutral or Communist countries, are regarded by the people of those lands not as private citizens but as unaffiliated U. S. representatives. Thus today we are sometimes represented abroad by those who are actively seeking the destruction of our way of life.

19. As the leader of the anti-Communist world, the United States is considered in this matter by its allies and the Free World as having a broader responsibility. A failure by the United States

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

to have effective control and procedure concerning the issuance  
of passports to members and supporters of the Communist party  
will affect the temper and tone of anti-Communist activity  
throughout the Free World.

20. I would like to urge that in the consideration of any bill  
to regulate the issuance of passports careful consideration be  
given to the absolute necessity of protecting confidential sources.

~~SECRET~~